

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting

April 10, 2014

Lincoln Center

PRESENT: Crockett, Hagenow, Pattacini, Pazda, Stafford

ALSO PRESENT: Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kisiel, Assistant to the Superintendent for Finance & Management Brooks, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services Matfess, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Radikas

ABSENT: Cruz, Leon, Scappaticci, Thames

A. OPENING

A.1.& 2. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson Pattacini. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mr. Pattacini. Mr. Pattacini explained that the Alliance Grant needs to be adopted prior to the next scheduled meeting, so this special meeting was called to accomplish that.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

C. OLD BUSINESS

C.1. Action Regarding The 2014-2015 Alliance Grant

Dr. Kisiel reviewed that Manchester is obliged to submit to the State Board of Education and the Department of Education our application for the 2014-2015 Alliance Grant. Dr. Kisiel had asked Mr. Geary to take full responsibility for preparing the grant application with the support of district administration and teachers and this evening Mr. Geary presented the overview of the application to the community and the Board of Education. The full presentation is available on the website.

Mr. Pattacini asked for more detail on the math intervention program. Mr. Geary reviewed it will be used in learning centers in grades K-6 in class as well as with math interventionists who may pull out students for tiered intervention. Both this new program and Lexia can also be used at home. Mr. Pattacini was excited that the program would be able to be used at home.

Regarding the 1:1 expansion of technology, Mr. Pattacini is sensitive to the ongoing costs of programming and the funding cliff. He asked about the long-term financial aspects of this initiative. Mr. Geary reviewed that the initial investment in Chromebooks last year and this year was financed by the Alliance Grant because the Board budget would not have been able to support that expense. However, doing one year at a time, the technology budget of \$540,000 can well afford adding 6th and 9th grade technology each year and Mr. Geary is not concerned about a funding cliff regarding technology. Eventually, the technology person at Bennet will need to be folded into the Board budget.

Ms. Pazda pointed out that during the budget process we hear from the Board of Directors asking how the Alliance Grant is impacting the operating budget. She talked about collecting data and that we cannot continue to fund programs that are not working or not showing us results. Mr. Geary agreed that all initiatives will be closely reviewed and we should not continue to add programming without taking something away that is not working, especially once the Alliance Grant runs out. Data will be collected. This applies to programs funded through the Alliance Grant, the Board budget, as well as through Title funds. Dr. Kisiel pointed out that the state also is asking these questions and we have to show results and be accountable for these initiatives. Mr. Geary stated the District Improvement Team will work to identify and monitor areas of success.

Regarding talent development, Ms. Pazda is pleased to be looking at new initiatives to strengthen reading and math in all schools, not just Title schools. She loves the innovative grant idea and hopes this will get teachers to think outside the box.

Mr. Pattacini questioned the movement of the ELL teachers back to the Alliance Grant and wondered if that kicked something else out of the grant. Mr. Geary stated it did and that is the last slide.

Mr. Geary also gave credit to Dr. Kisiel regarding the mini-grants.

Mr. Pattacini asked about what work takes place in the Family Resource Center at Washington. Mr. Geary noted the Family Resource Center (FRC) serves the entire community, not just Washington. Latasha Turnquest, the Director, holds lunch bunch for students and parents, which brings parents into the school and provides a book to take home. The FRC hosts evening events as well as breakfast groups for students having behavioral trouble. The FRC opens the doors to parents and makes them feel welcome and engaged in their child's education.

Mr. Pattacini asked about the high school summer program and how many students would be supported. Mr. Geary stated the program would support 100 students.

Mr. Geary stated there is currently a summer school and electives at the high school, but this new program allows for a half day with the Parks & Rec, which previously was only a full day program. This expands the number of opportunities teens have during the summer.

Ms. Pazda feels this grant allows for a wonderful opportunity for school reform and asked for clarification on how we qualified. Mr. Geary reviewed that we do not want to qualify for this grant, as it was awarded to the 30 lowest performing districts in the state. However, the funds are necessary for reform and to improve student outcomes.

Mr. Pattacini called for a motion.

Acting Secretary Stafford moved to adopt the 2014-2015 Alliance Grant. Mr. Crockett seconded the motion.

5/0 – Voted in favor.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pattacini called for a motion to adjourn.

Acting Secretary Stafford moved and Ms. Pazda seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

5/0 - Voted in favor.

Adjournment 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Stafford
Acting Board Secretary